

AMENDMENT

A marked up version of the amendments to the Specification is appended to this Amendment and Reply.

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph spanning pages 2 and 3 to read as follows:

AI -- FIG. 1 shows a vacuum seal 20 for maintaining a seal between first and second opposed flanges (not shown) to maintain an internal pressure less than an external pressure. The seal is of generally annular configuration, being angularly symmetric about a central longitudinal axis 500. When viewed in longitudinal radial section (*i.e.*, along a central longitudinal plane 501 outward from the axis 500) the seal is generally c-shaped and open radially outward (FIG. 2). The seal is substantially symmetric about a transverse centerplane 502. The seal has nested inner and outer members or jackets 22 and 24, respectively. Both are generally c-shaped and open radially outward. The inner member has inner and outer surfaces 26 and 28 joined by edge surfaces 30A and 30B. The outer member has inner and outer surfaces 32 and 34, respectively. In FIG. 2, a line 503 (a cylindrical construct of diameter  $D_2$  when not viewed in cross-section) designates the radial location of the maximum longitudinal span of the inner member 22. Proximate the annular ends of the outer member 24, the outer member includes longitudinally-projecting protuberances 40A and 40B which provide annular ridges. These protuberances project slightly beyond the adjacent portions of the outer surface 34. The longitudinal extremities 42A and 42B of the ridges 40A and 40B engage the adjacent flanges 100A and 100B (FIG. 3) to form a seal and may be exactly or nearly coaligned with the line 503. The outer member 24 need not extend substantially radially beyond the line 503. Viewed relative to the intersection of the line 503 and plane 502, this may be from a few degrees to about 20 degrees beyond the line 503. The inner member advantageously extends slightly farther therebeyond, *e.g.*, to an exemplary 30° beyond the line 503. The inner member 22 provides the primary structural integrity of the seal and is formed of a material and with dimensions effective to maintain compressive engagement with the flanges. This will be achieved by making the inner member substantially thicker than the outer member. A preferred material for the inner member is sold by INCO Alloys International, Inc. under the trademark INCONEL Alloy 718. Other "superalloys" having a nickel base and significant amounts of iron and chromium (for